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NOTES ON THE PHILIPPINES.

MANILA, December 8th, 2.40 p.m.

From the Secretary General of the Philippines to the Spanish Consul.

"A Cyclone is moving to the S.E. of London near to the coast; its direction seems to be from E.S.E. to W.N.W. Will advise should it receive."

Chinese Land and Sea Warfare.

The *Shen-Pao* of the 27th November, contains a leading article entitled, "Four Rules for Land and Sea Warfare," by Chang Hsien-shun, the Lieutenant-Governor of Anhwei, a famous Imperial general who has accompanied Yang Ching-chin to Fokien. It is stated that these Rules have been confirmed by the Viceroy's orders to all the officers of the troops at Foochow for adoption.

The exhibit of a most antiquated manner how chivalrous are the Chinese notions of the conditions and appliances of warfare at the present time.

The following is a translation of the Rules:

I. Posts should be built, (a) apart and in groups; (b) on level ground; (c) inside a port.

(a) When a hostile vessel approaches, it takes at least four minutes to lay and fire a breech-loading gun at her. A shot is effective, up to 600 ching (say 1,300 yards), and beyond that distance the aim is uncertain and the force small. A vessel goes in four minutes 850 ching. Now if the mate who is fired when the ship is 600 ching off, by the time three shots are fired, she will be 700 ching past the fort. At present there are four guns on board, with few guns each. The fire should be concentrated at one important point. There 100 pieces—native or foreign—should be placed, 10 ching apart. The foreign gun can pierce the hull, the native can hit the coming tower, mast, boats, funnel, etc. What ship would face 1,000 ching of such danger?

(b) Powder explodes upwards. A gun with a point blank range of one, it will, if elevated, carry 3,000; but, if depressed, it will not carry, and the aim will be uncertain. If forts are placed on hillsides, our men, shooting downwards, will miss 9 times out of ten; while the enemy, firing upwards, will hit every time; and a shot striking the hill behind the fort will bring down a shower of stones which will make our position still worse. Further no supports can be placed on a hill side to defend a fort from a rear attack. A long earthwork, 5 ching thick and 8 feet high should be run along the low ground some way from the hills. At every 10 ching, a gun should be mounted in a chimney-flue embrasure, 8 feet wide outwards and 3 feet inwards. The muzzle of the gun should be protected by a screen of cotton-wool. Troops should be placed some score of paces to the rear in oval entrenchments to protect them from shells.

(c) The object of coastal fort is to keep hostile ships out, not to fight them to the bitter end. This purpose is served by forts along one side of a narrow channel, better than by forts outside the port, which are exposed to attack from three sides, besides the danger of rear-attack by landing parties. II. The vulnerable points of armoured ships are their conning towers and boats. Their machinery cannot be got at; and it is useless to destroy their funnels. The conning-tower stands high above the deck and has windows all round. It is the weakest part of the vessel; and cannot be protected by iron-plate. In it stands the master to navigate the ship; in it, in battle, is also the officer to manoeuvre the vessel. The officers and the masters are the chief men of the crew; and, only a few of them are on board any vessel. If they are shot, the ship is deprived of her eyes and ears and floats masterless. Next come the boats from which landings are effected. They hang along the ship's sides and can easily be hit and destroyed. If a ship is hit by a shot, she readily moves out of range. The foreign newspaper states that the French fleet destroyed the forts at Madagascar in a short time, without suffering any damage. This proves the uselessness of stationary guns against a moving ship. But if we fire at their eyes and ears, the conning-towers, and, of their hands and feet, the boats, they will not dare rush to attack us.

III. Our soldiers must be thoroughly trained. China has over a million troops, regular and irregular, but is, several times, the number of the French army. Every coast province has enrolled several times the number of the whole French forces in Tonquin and Formosa, which does not exceed 10,000. The majority of our troops are due to want of training and that to economy of powder and shot in drilling them. Our real use, soldiers must perfect their marksmanship by daily target practice. But, without courage, even skilful troops fall into confusion in action. From my own experience in war, I have come to the conclusion that soldiers must be brave.

Therefore the system of *Yulai*, which is Imperial decree, in Chien Lung's time, ordered to be adopted, should be followed. *Yulai* put down the aborigines in Fokien with only 3,000 men. But he trained them to move—sabres by daily drill with bags of sand on their backs, and he caused them to fit at three levels. Thus his men

were irresistible in attack and defence, in retreat—for they never missed a shot and could run as fast as horses.

IV. Foreign military works say that Rome absorbed other countries by trusting to earthworks. Breech-loading rifles now kill at 120 ching; but a rifle bullet penetrates earth only 6 inches at 62 ching, 1 foot 3 inches at 31 ching, and 1 foot 5 inches at 7 or 8 ching. Soldiers should, therefore, in accordance with the foreign system, carry spades and mattocks, and throw up breastworks 2 feet 4 inches high to meet the enemy's fire. If the enemy advance too rapidly, they can fire kneeling behind a 2 foot wall. If, partly outnumbered, they should entrench themselves, and await rescue. Those who say that foreigners are invincible only in sea, forgot the superiority of their weapons, marksmanship, and drill. Now suppose a force of 2,000 men provided with shovels, &c. Ten companies, or 1,000 men, would constitute the fighting line, and 10 companies the reserve. Each company of the front line would dig a trench five ching long, and the reserves would make a similar work with shovels and mattocks, 100 paces to the rear. If the enemy did not come on, the reserves would entrench them and retire through the fighting line. If the enemy were put to flight, the reserves would occupy the advance lines; if the enemy beat the advance lines, the reserves would open fire on them. If the force were outnumbered, it would entrench itself in a chosen position and await reinforcements. If we outnumbered the enemy, we should take them in flank and rear. Thus will an enemy from over sea, few in number though good soldiers, be hampered and his purpose be made impossible of accomplishment. No victory, however, can be gained by pouring on vast numbers of troops without strategy. That we are inferior at sea may be asserted—but how can China exist as a state, if we are also inferior on land? All officers should be ordered to adopt these tactics before hand. But, if anyone else has a plan to secure victory, let him publish it so as to prove who is the ablest man.

Sir Edmund Hornby's Ghost Story.

Sir Edmund Hornby's Ghost Story has finally exploded in a way which does not reflect much credit on the originator. His letter is one of the poorest explanations possible. Sir Edmund says he still believes every word of the story is accurate, but he cannot refute the evidence brought forward to show the narrative is entirely at variance with the actual circumstances on which it is professedly based. Sir Edmund also complains because Mr. Balfour wrote to the Editor of the *Nineteenth Century* instead of sending a private communication to the originator of the story. This is a very lame statement. Mr. Balfour was perfectly justified, and exhibited no lack of good taste, in sending a contradiction to the story to the Editor of the magazine in which the narrative appeared. Indeed as the story was calculated to create a belief in the supernatural among the public, it was Mr. Balfour's duty to disavow the narrative in a public way, if he had good reason to believe that it was based on a misstatement of facts, as we are quite convinced it was. Of course these misstatements may have been quite unintentional. We observe that the matter was taken up in the *London Truth*, and by Mr. Labouchere gives a succinct statement of the case, we reproduce his remarks. We may explain that we reproduced an article on the subject from the *North-China Herald* in our columns, hence the reference to the *Overland China Mail* article in *Truth*.

Sir Edmund Hornby, who, I presume, is in England, ought to make some rapid arrangements to get his story published in the *Overland China Mail* and other newspapers, and get back to China. Sir Edmund's plan is to publish his story. He has been long a Judge, and his statement if unchallenged, would become one of the accredited and proved ghost stories which pass current amongst silly people. According to him, he was in bed on the night of January 19, 1875, at Shanghai. His house was closed, and by his side slept, Lady Hornby. Suddenly by his head a knock, then a Mr. Lang, editor of an evening newspaper, walked in. He requested Sir Edmund to dictate to him his judgment in a divorce suit that he was about to deliver the next morning. This he did, and Mr. Lang disappeared. The next morning the judgment was delivered. But Mr. Lang was dead. At an inquest, it was shown that he was in his room at twelve, when his wife went to his bed; he was soon coming to bed. He replied, "I have only the Judge's judgment to get ready." At a quarter to one, he came again, and did not disappear. At half past one, he was again in bed. Before his wife was a note-book. It contained the following entry: "The Chief Justice gave, this morning to the Government Civil Hospital the sum of one hundred and ten dollars for the removal of a bullet from Sir Edmund's shoulder." Sir Edmund the next day told his wife of what had occurred, and also told a brother Judge.

Now here we have certain specific facts vouchered for by a Judge. What, however, are these facts? 1. Sir Edmund was married on April 25, 1873, and therefore his wife could not have been sleeping by his side; 2. The Judge to whom he told the story the next day was not in Shanghai, but in Japan; therefore, he could not have told it to him. 3. The judgment was delivered ten days later; therefore it was not delivered the next morning. 4. There was no inquest. 5. Mr. Lang was not dead when his ghost roamed into Sir Edmund's room for a report of the judgment. 6. He rose on that morning at eight o'clock, visited his office, then returned to his room to dress, and a few minutes later was found dead on the floor. So there was a long ghostly story, kindly reflecting on an inaccurate and absurd tale, may form a pretty fair estimate of the bad stories of people who are not judges.

Bursting oranges after stamps—Mr. Wherry's invention.

On the 25th of November, Mr. Wherry, a Judge at the request of Mr. Caldwell,

The Shooting on Board the "Luzon."

The magisterial inquiry into the charge of shooting preferred by Mr. Hammond, the Chief Officer of the American ship *Luzon*, now in harbour, against the Chinese steward and cook of the same vessel, was resumed at the Police Court, by Mr. W. G. Martin, the 2nd magistrate.

Mr. Caldwell appeared for the defendants. Inspector Crabbek was in charge of the case.

In reply to His Worship, Mr. Caldwell

said he had read over complainant's deposition, and wished to cross-examine him.

Mr. Hammond, the complainant, was then recalled and cross-examined by Mr. Caldwell.

He said: "The disturbance at half past two was the first disturbance that had occurred between myself and the steward or cook that day. I had no quarrel with the mate or cook in the early part of the morning with him about a bucket of water. The steward went aft that morning and pumped a bucket of water out of the tank, but I did not have a disturbance with him on that account. I told him when he wanted his water the carpenter would serve it out to him.

Mr. Caldwell: "That was all I said."

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ANY Cast-off Clothing, Books, or
Paper will be thankfully received
at the Sailor's Home, West Point.

Hongkong, July 25, 1878.

Mails.

Occidental & Oriental Steam-
Ship Company.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS
TO JAPAN, THE UNITED
STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND
SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE,
VIA THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS,
AND ATLANTIC & OTHER CONNECTING
STEAMER R.R.

THE Steamship OCEANIC will be
despatched for San Francisco, via
Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 13th
of December, at 3 p.m.

Connection being made at Yokohama,
with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan
ports.

All Parcel Packages should be marked
in address in full; and same will be received
at the Company's Office, until 5 p.m., the
day previous to sailing.

Return Passages - Passengers, who
have paid full fare, returning at San
Francisco, or China or Japan (or vice versa),
will be allowed a discount of
20% from Return Fare; if re-embarking
within the year, an allowance of 10% will
be made from Return Fare. - Fra-Pax
Return Passage Orders, available for one
year, will be issued at a Discount of 25% from
Return Fare. These allowances do not apply
to through fares from China and Japan to
Europe.

Consignees - Passengers, who
have paid full fare, returning at San
Francisco, or China or Japan (or vice versa),
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